



United States Commission on Civil Rights

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Selected Scope of Duty Statutes and Regulations for State Advisory Committees

USCCR Authorizing Statute:

42 U.S.C. 1975a

(a) Generally

The Commission—

(1) shall investigate allegations in writing under oath or affirmation relating to deprivations—

(A) because of color, race, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin; or

(B) as a result of any pattern or practice of fraud;

of the right of citizens of the United States to vote and have votes counted; and

(2) shall—

(A) study and collect information relating to;

(B) make appraisals of the laws and policies of the Federal Government with respect to;

(C) serve as a national clearinghouse for information relating to; and

(D) prepare public service announcements and advertising campaigns to discourage;

discrimination or denials of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution of the United States because of color, race, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin, or in the administration of justice.

(d) Advisory committees

The Commission may constitute such advisory committees as it deems advisable.

The Commission shall establish at least one such committee in each State and the District of Columbia composed of citizens of that State or District.

Federal Advisory Committee Act regulations:

41 CFR 102-3.30(e) Advisory functions only. The function of advisory committees is advisory only, unless specifically provided by statute or Presidential directive.

USCCR regulations:
45 CFR 703.2 Functions.

Under the Commission's charter each Advisory Committee shall:

- (a) Advise the Commission in writing of any knowledge or information it has of any alleged deprivation of the right to vote and to have the vote counted by reason of color, race, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin, or that citizens are being accorded or denied the right to vote in Federal elections as a result of patterns or practices of fraud or discrimination;
- (b) Advise the Commission concerning matters related to discrimination or a denial of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution and the effect of the laws and policies of the Federal Government with respect to equal protection of the laws;
- (c) Advise the Commission upon matters of mutual concern in the preparation of reports of the Commission to the President and the Congress;
- (d) Receive reports, suggestions, and recommendations from individuals, public and private organizations, and public officials upon matters pertinent to inquiries conducted by the Advisory Committee;
- (e) Initiate and forward advice and recommendations to the Commission upon matters that the Advisory Committee has studied;
- (f) Assist the Commission in the exercise of its clearinghouse function and with respect to other matters that the Advisory Committee has studied;
- (g) Attend, as observers, any open hearing or conference that the Commission may hold within the State.

45 CFR 703.3 Scope of subject matter.

The scope of the subject matter to be dealt with by Advisory Committees shall be those subjects of inquiry or study with which the Commission itself is authorized to investigate, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1975(a). Each Advisory Committee shall confine its studies to the State covered by its charter. It may, however, subject to the requirements of 703.4, undertake to study, within the limitations of the Act, subjects other than those chosen by the Commission for study.